

Issue 5

Term 1 Week 10

Thursday 30 March 2017

From the Principal

Dear Parents

As we come to the end of the term, I want to congratulate our students on their commitment to learning. All of our students have a learning goal and have made a conscious effort to improve their learning and make positive gains in all key learning areas. We all know from the latest research that our children need more than talent and a high IQ to be a successful learner. They need the character traits of hard work combined with their ability to stick to a task and see it through - that makes all the difference. The average student gives up after three minutes, preferring to ask for help than work through a problem.

Cognitive skills by themselves aren't enough for children to succeed over the long journey. Many recent studies have found that character, not cognitive ability, is the single, reliable determinant of how a person's life will turn out. These traits include the inclination to persist at a boring task, the ability to delay gratification (self control) and the tendency to follow through with a plan (conscientiousness) which are invaluable traits at school, in the work place and in life in general.

It is problematic when we as parents overprotect and overindulge our children. When children continually experience easy success we set them up for failure because when they finally face up to difficult situations many lack the capacity to push through the tough times.

Encouraging our children to step out of their comfort zone and take learning and social risks is one of the greatest challenges for us as parents. It is critical that we challenge our children to attempt activities where failure is a significant option; overcoming setbacks and pushing through difficulties is how character is formed.

The good news is character is malleable and such traits as persistence (grit), self control and conscientiousness can be developed.

I encourage you to focus on character in your conversations with your child at home. Talk about your experiences and how character contributes to excellence and success in every day life. Weave those character traits into your family DNA.

Thank you

A special thank you to everyone who offered words of sympathy and their condolences on the passing of our Finance Secretary, Linda Borsato. Your support has been much appreciated.

Thank you to our Staff for their hard work and commitment to the children. Thank you also to our families for your continued support of what we do at St Michael's.

Parent/Teacher / Student conferences

Parent / Teacher / Student conferences will be held in Term 2 Week 4. An online booking form will be sent home next term.

Easter

This year Easter falls on the middle weekend of the holidays. As a school, the children will have the opportunity to celebrate Holy Week. Various grades will re-enact what happened on Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday and Good Friday. We hope that as a family you will also take the opportunity to celebrate Easter—the greatest feast of the Church year.

"Lord, we ask this Easter to become more like You. Help us to develop an inner strength that is capable of handling life's situations. Help us to provide a place in our heart where You reside. Amen."

Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead.

Wanuta Maka

Religious Education

Project Compassion—Caritas

The children continue the raise money to support the annual Caritas Australia Project compassion appeal. The aim of this fundraiser is to support our vulnerable neighbours worldwide. The money collected will be utilised to create safe, resilient communities that will be enriched and transformed. We thank you in advance for the support of this worthy appeal.

Mr David Ison, Religious Education Co-ordinator

St Michael's Parish Youth Group

The Youth Group for Years 5-6 will meet on 2 April from 4.00-5.30 pm in the Downey Room.

We will be exploring the Easter journey together. If you have any questions regarding the youth group, or in regards to getting involved in the youth movement at St. Michael's, feel free to email Paull at stmichaelsyouthbh@gmail.com or call 0407 773 174.

Stations of the Cross

This year as in past years we the youth movement will be hosting a passion play at the parish, however we are in need of volunteers! If you're interested be sure to contact Paul on 0407 773 174. We are looking for people from Year 5-any age upwards. Our next rehearsal date is 3 April from 3:30-5pm, and 2 & 9 April from 7-8pm.

Education learning spaces at St Michael's

As previously explained in our Week 6 newsletter, the learning spaces at St Michael's are required for use by our staff and students. The school is unable to provide spaces to Occupational Therapists or Speech Pathologists.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Mrs Danuta Maka, Principal

Morning routine at St Michael's

In order for the children to develop their social skills, independence and confidence we ask that when you bring your child to the school playground that you give them a hug/kiss and leave the grounds as soon as possible.

Morning supervision commences at 8.20 am.

This play time in the morning gives the children opportunity to socialise, make friends and play their ball games with each other. Please give them this experience and build their confidence by leaving the grounds once you have said your goodbyes. Please do not join in their ball games as some children are getting upset that their parent is not there / cannot join in.

For safety reasons, please say all your goodbyes to your children on the playground and do not go up the stairs with toddlers or assist your child in carrying their school bag.

We also request that parents do not go to classrooms without an appointment. If you need to speak with a teacher, please leave a message at the school office or send in via email. These messages are forwarded to teachers and they will get back to you as soon as they can.

We want all the children to feel St Michael's is a happy and safe place. These small steps in establishing routine can help us all build the children's independence.

We thank you for your understanding and support.

Social Skills and Mantras Program.

Week 11: The 'Network Hand'

• The children list five people, from various areas in their life that they trust and can go to if they need help. These people must be over 18 years of age.

Week 1—Term 2: Mantra 3 Dobbing verses telling

- Are you dobbing or telling?
- 'Dobbing', is when you are trying to get someone into trouble.
- 'Telling', is when you are getting your EARLY WARNING SIGNS. You feel unsafe, so you must tell someone you trust who will listen to you. At school, this is a teacher.

Prayers

Please keep in your prayers Mrs Rugg and her family on the passing of her sister.

Please continue to keep in your prayers the family of Mrs Linda Borsato, Finance Secretary, who passed away recently.

Eternal rest grant to them, Lord. Let your perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Enrolling now for Kindergarten 2018

Enrolment at St Michael's Primary Catholic School includes your return of the **Enrolment Application** with supporting documentation including copies of the following:

- Passport photo of your child (original)
- Birth Certificate*
- Baptism Certificate*
- Immunisation History Statement* (visit <u>www.medicareaustralia.gov.au</u> or call 1800 653 809 and request your statement)
- Passport with visa* (if not Australian Citizens).

After you have submitted the Enrolment Application, you will be invited for an interview with your child. The school office will contact you in the coming weeks to organise a time for this interview.

Further information: Please contact the school office on 9639 0518.

School Fees

It has come to our attention that the School Maintenance Fee of \$95 had not been added to the school fee accounts for 2017.

The Maintenance Fee will now be added to the Term 2 school fee account. We apologise for the oversight and inconvenience to our families.

Any enquiries regarding school fee accounts can be actioned by Finance Officers at the school on Friday 1 April, Tuesday 4 April and Wednesday 5 April by calling 9639 0518.

A permanent full-time Finance Officer will be available for enquiries in Term 2.



Calendar Dates

WEEK 10

Fri 31 Mar	School Assembly 9.00 am—Prayer 6 Red				
	WEEK 11				
Tue 4 Apr	Whole School Holy Week Non-Eucharistic Liturgy 12 pm				
Wed 5 Apr	Whole school photos—Summer Uniform				
Thu 6 Apr	NSW Swimming SOPAC P&F Cake stall Student & Citizen of the Term Awards 2.30 pm				
Fri 7 Apr	No School Assembly Whole School Holy Week Non-Eucharistic Liturgy 10.15 am End of Term 1—3.10 pm				
	School holidays—8 April to 23 April Staff Development day—24 April Anzac Day 25 April				
	TERM 2—WEEK 1				
Mon 24 Apr	Staff Development Day—Pupil free				
Tue 25 Apr	ANZAC Day—Public Holiday				
Wed 26 Apr	Students resume for Term 2				
Fri 28 Apr	School Assembly 9 am				
	WEEK 2				
Fri 5 May	School Assembly 9 am				
	WEEK 3				
Mon 8 May	All students to be in Winter Uniform				
Tue 9 May	Yrs 3 & 5 NAPLAN—Language conventions and writing tests				
Wed 10 May	Yrs 3 & 5 NAPLAN—Reading Test				
Thu 11 May	Mothers' Day Gift Stall Yrs 3 & 5 NAPLAN—Numeracy Test				
Fri 12 May	Mother's Day Non Eucharistic Liturgy 10.15 am P&F Mother's Day Morning Tea 11.00 am				
	ding representative sport are regularly added to the school's calendar on our website: stmichaelsbhills.catholic.edu.au/calendar-of-events				

Representative Sport changes

Due to change in weather conditions and last minute ground closures, dates advertised may need to be changed. Every effort is made to give as much notice as possible when changes occur. We also use our Skoolbag App to send alerts as soon as we are made aware. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause for these circumstances which are beyond our control.

Family assistance

We have a family in need of support to take a child to Gladstone Road, Castle Hill on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. If you are able to assist, please contact the school office.

Staff Development Day

Monday 24 April will be a professional learning day for the staff. There is no school for the children on this day.

The Staff of St Michael's will be participating in a professional learning day on English.

Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) Survey



Insight SRC has been conducting a survey

on behalf of our school and the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta. The aim of the survey is to collect valuable information from staff, parents and Years 3-6 students about the cultural behaviour, relationships, and learning community of our school.

The results will enable our school to build on our successes to date and focus on ways we can continue to improve.

Thank you to the parents who have already completed the Survey. If you were one of the 60 families who have been randomly selected to participate in the survey and have not completed the survey yet we would be most appreciative if you could please complete the online Survey or return the hard copy to the school office by no later than this **Friday 31 March**.

Your views are very important and combined with the responses from the staff and student surveys, the value of the QCS Project will be greatly enhanced.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey and for contributing to quality data about our school and system.

Uniform purchases

Winter uniforms are now available. All size samples are at the office for trying on.

Last day of delivery for this term will be on Friday 7 April.

Orders will still be taken during the school holidays via email and our first delivery for Term 2 will be Friday 28 April.

Thank you. Elle, Ozfashions

Changeover into Winter Uniform Monday 15 May 2017

Children may wear their summer uniform when they return after the school holidays. If the weather turns cold before Monday 15 May, children may wear their winter uniform. Children must either wear their full summer uniform or full winter uniform on these hot or cold days until 15 May. From Monday 15 May, all children are expected to wear their full winter uniform.

Please label all items clearly, especially hats and jackets. Children are responsible for their own belongings.

Lost property is placed in a tub outside the School Hall.

Assembly Awards

Students of the Week–Week 7

KQ BLUE KvG GREEN KR RED KRT YELLOW 1HS BLUE **1S GREEN** 1G RED **1F YELLOW** 2R BLUE 2J GREEN 2P RED 2L YELLOW 3B BLUE **3H GREEN** 3C RED **3RC YELLOW** 4BM BLUE 4G GREEN 4P RED **4I YELLOW** 5K BLUE **5J GREEN** 5M RED **50D YELLOW** 6F BLUE **6B GREEN** 6R RED **6M YELLOW**

Olivia Intan Chloe Harkin Methni Kasturiarachichi Mikayla Barakat Jessica Bozic Kabir Sabnani John Bazouni **Eliott Thomas Emily Geracitano** Chloe McKinney Stella Reidv Zuzanna Latecka Marcus Teng Elle-Maree Ghetto-Tarantolo Stella Azares Felix Yoon Daniel Grib **Elizabeth Semenov** Sarah Chue Hong Jonathan Drury Kayla The Matthew Tanios **Thomas Barakat** Angelina Woodward Madison O'Brien Tyrin Barnett Christopher Lucin Ben Walters

Students of the Week–Week 9

KQ BLUE Jet Cassin KvG GREEN Angelina Bechara KR RED Christy Huynh Elroy Franklin KRT YELLOW James Mostyn 1HS BLUE **1S GREEN** Lincoln Barandiaran 1G RED Nadia Intan Neha Shah **1F YELLOW** Liam Rubbo 2R BLUE 2J GREEN **Charlotte Henson** Tahnae Halpenny 2P RED Lachlan Parades **2L YELLOW Oliver Paton 3B BLUE 3H GREEN Isabelle Stevens** Georgia Goodchild 3C RED **Cooper Smith 3RC YELLOW** Harrison Michaels 4BM BLUE Zach Haddad 4G GREEN 4P RFD Caelyn Dunnachie 4I YELLOW Oscar Cheah 5K BLUE Sarah Cheah 5J GREEN Shae Munro Stephanie Chue Hong 5M RED Olivia Kelly **50D YELLOW** 6F BLUE Lily Donald **6B GREEN Daniel Fernandez** 6R RED Zara Haddad **6M YELLOW** Dana Aani

Year 6 Parent Run Formal

It is that time of year to get started on planning the Year 6 formal. If anyone would like to be part of the formal Committee, please RSVP Lina Terlikar at <u>linaterlikar@hotmail.com</u>. We will be meeting on 3 April 2017, time and place to be confirmed.

Students of the Week–Week 8

KQ BLUE KvG GREEN KRT YELLOW 1HS BLUE 1G RFD **1F YELLOW** 2R BLUE 2J GREEN 2P RED 2L YELLOW 3B BLUE **3H GREEN** 3C RED **3RC YELLOW** 4BM BLUE 4P RED **4I YELLOW** 5K BLUE **5J GREEN** 5M RED **50D YELLOW** 6F BLUE **6B GREEN** 6R RED 6M YELLOW

Marc-Felipe Lewis Daniel Eltonn Dean Zerefos Elijah Khoury **Emily Mison** Ella-Marie Canderle **Grace Michaels** Kyuss Bamford Jacob Kahwaji Jamie Wakim Madeleine Scotland Sarah Burke Hudson Gellel Julia Worsley **Dallas Brettle** Xavier Saffy Hannah Kim Robert McKay Ashlev Jav Luke Alderson Joshua Stevens Jasmine Patanjali Ellen Mandis Jessica Barton Tayha Herrett

Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge

Scarlett Boswell Drew Fleming Katherine Liu Hannah McGoldrick Charlotte-Jessica Padjan Caleb Parker Xavier Parker Mitchell Thomson

Canteen

As the end of the term approaches, Red Day will be held on Monday 3 April. This is a chance to reward the students for their hard work during Term 1. It is also a good opportunity to educate the students that certain foods are ok to have on special occasions. We will be offering iced donuts and Cadbury easter eggs in keeping with our "Easter Bonanza" theme.

To avoid missing out, please pre-order your donut at the canteen by Friday 31 March. Limited quantities will be available without pre-order.

Thank you to all parents and students for a great start to the year. We look forward to seeing you all in Term 2.

Gabby, Jane & Kylie - Munch Canteens

Star Corner

Congratulations to Abbie Hatton who shaved her hair on Saturday 18 March for the World's Greatest Shave in support of the Leukaemia Foundation.



If you would like to support Abbie and the Leukemia Foundation please search for her name at the following location:

https://secure.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/registrant/search.aspx? eventid=13823&langpref=en-CA&Referrer=https%3a%2f% 2fworldsgreatestshave.com%2f

News from 4 Yellow

4 Yellow have been learning about how to write a Literary Description and how it can help to enhance the quality of a narrative. We have been focussing on our use of vocabulary and how we can further develop our writing by using more interesting words.

At the beach

I walk across the hot, crusty sand and hear the sand crackling underneath my feet. I look across the horizon and leap into the water. I ran out of the water because I had forgotten my surfboard. I see myself on the crashing waves and riding them in a barrel of water and think what all my friends are doing and how it's nothing compared to this. After the dramatic thinking experience I paddle into shore and bring out my grey, soaking phone and call my friends. I tell them to bring a towel, food and coke—lots and lots of coke.

Once they arrive at the beach I tell them to hop in the water. I go to swim in the water and see many sharp, white teeth rising up towards me. I jump back and land on the sand realizing I came face to face (well, face to jaw) with a great white shark. After everyone goes home I feel so very lucky to live with my friend and family in this country **Tobias B**

My Exciting Day At The Beach

From all the baby blue beach houses, ear aching sirens were blaring from the rooftops! This was to warn everyone about the tiger shark lurking nearby. It was deafening! The waves crashing against the shore and swarming around people's feet was not helping my ears at all. Seagulls were squawking at all the loud sirens and were trying to be heard over them. People were screeching, panicking and

acting like headless chickens. The siren all of a sudden stopped. SILENCE. A man with a very low but humble voice said over the microphone "FALSE ALARM!" People stopped for a moment, then resumed their summer fun, as if nothing had happened.

After my ear felt better I decided I was going to have a nice, calming swim in the peaceful, bright blue sea. I went so deep the water was up to my nose! The water smelt very salty, the seaweed below me felt like a sticky moss glued to the bottom of my feet. When I decided I would like to get out of the water my nose was stinging like crazy! It feels as if a pufferfish was up my nose! It was that sore! My nose felt as sore as a bee sting, like a dinosaur roaring at me, like a volcano that was going to erupt.

While I was trying to ignore my very painful nose I laid down my towel on the soft, golden and smooth sand. The towel is a navy blue with a dolphin gracefully swimming on the front of it as well as the bright shiny sun as golden as the sand. Suddenly a seagull swoops down right in front of my face! It was as frightening as the alarm and all the screaming that was going on before! The seagull scared me so much that I could hear my heart beating very quickly.

Who knew that seagulls could be so scary? Not me. I thought I should go for a nice walk to calm myself down. As I stood up I put my foot down in a moat filled up with five centimetres of water that a very talented five year old made. I fell face first in sand. The sand tasted quite grainy it didn't taste very nice either. My day at the beach has been like an adventure. It was such an eventful day! **Sarah Z**



A day at the beach

I arrived at the beach at midday. I could hear the crashing waves and children's laughter from the car park. The sun was booming. There were brightly coloured umbrellas all over the place. The water was crystal blue, like the colour of my favourite diamond necklace. I walked down to the hot, crunching sand and put down my bag. I took off my dress, my swimmers were underneath, and ran to the water, dodging 100's of 1000's of sand castles. The water was *freezing*! I didn't care though. I closed my eyes and mouth and ...

Splash!! I dived under the first wave I saw. It pushed hard. It was strong but I could take it. The water was salty. Yuk! I spat it out and cleaned my eyes. Then jumped in the next one. Soon a large wind came and the waves grew bigger. Soon the waves were even bigger than my dad. It covered me in disgusting, salty sea water. I wiped large, heavy drops

off my forehead. I looked down and saw hundreds of tiny fish panicking and rushing around. I could feel them tickling my small feet and tiny toes. Even though it was tickling me it still felt slimy and gooey. Eww!

Suddenly,"Squawk!" A large seagull screeched in the air above me. My ear drums banged loudly like two fry pans. Ouch! I covered my ears for a few seconds then swam back to shore. I sat on my towel shivering. The cold, cold wind was still blowing. I wrapped my towel around me. I made sure

the side that was on the sand was now on me. I looked around. Hundreds of children were splashing in the ocean. I could hear dogs barking as they swam through the ocean in an attempt to catch the frisbee. Suddenly, the wind slowed down. But the sun got hotter. I felt like a roast chicken sitting in an oven. I was boiling now. I put down my towel and sprinted down burning, burning sand.

Aaahh!! That's better. I felt like a fire was just put on my back. To be cold again. This time when I looked down I saw hundreds of jellyfish heads. I picked up a large jelly ball. It felt like slime. It couldn't tear but it could bounce, mould and stick. I dropped it back into the water which was now very gentle. I looked up. It was getting dark. My mum called me to go home. I will forever remember this beach. The best beach ever!!! **Sienna G**



ABSENCES ADD UP!



DID YOU KNOW



WHAT PARENTS CAN DO



EACH DAY MISSED:

- Puts your child behind and makes it harder for them to catch up
- Can lead to lower achievement in reading, writing and numeracy
- Can lead to gaps in learning and social connections

GOOD HABITS BEGIN EARLY

Good attendance starts in Kindergarten and sets students up for success in their school life

SCHOOLS ARE THERE TO HELP

If you're having attendance issues with your child, speak to your school about ways to address it.







St Michael's Primary School Parents and Friends Association Baulkham Hills

P&F MEETING HEALTHY LUNCH BOX IDEAS

We were very pleased to have had Claudia Jahjah from Hills Nutrition present at our meeting last night. Claudia, an accredited practising dietician, spoke about choosing healthy lunchbox options for our kids. So many of us are so time-poor it goes to show, that a little time taken planning can reap great rewards. What was a true eye-opener was the amount of sugar some foods contain. Shopping in the health food aisle, is not necessarily healthy! Who knew there was so much sugar in no-added-sugar fruit juice! Check out Claudia's website for more:

http://www.hillsnutrition.com.au





2nd Hand Uniform Sale

Thank you to our lovely parents who donated no longer needed school uniforms and for your support on the day. We raised \$471 for the school. Thank you to our P&F helpers on the day - Michelle Montesin, Simone Bisson and Davina Kustreba.

HELPERS!

The P&F endeavours to put on great family events and other fundraisers during the year. We couldn't do this without the support of the school community. We always welcome additional parent helpers. If you would like to be on our database for when the call goes out, please email us **pandfstmichaels@gmail.com** Being on our database is not a commitment to help at every event. Come along when you can.

Mother's Day Raffle Tickets Coming Next Week First Prize

\$500 Gift Voucher from Robert Cliff Master Jewellers





Dinner Vouchers • Harbour Cruise • Pamper Party Skin Care Products • Fitness Vouchers + MORE

Keep an eye on our Facebook page and next Newsletter for more and promotion of our wonderful prize donors!



Find us on www.facebook.com/PFStMichaelsPrimaryBaulkhamHills Facebook Please go and "LIKE" our page for updates & news!

If you have any concerns or feedback, please email: **pandfstmichaels@gmail.com** - We thank you for your continued support!



Do you have a business that may help?

We would like to source goods and services from our school community rather than from outside as much as we possibly can. We would like to be able to help our parents with businesses or resources by promoting them in our school community in return. For example - food, entertainers etc. If you think you may be able to help, please email us: pandfstmichaels@gmail.com

↓ Locks & Socks Day! ↓ ↓

Sensational looking locks, hats and socks last Friday! We raised \$1031 for our school thanks to the generosity and support of our school community.



St Michael's Parents Friends Association 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

				As at 30.3.17 (subject to changes
TERM 1				
Next Week		Mother's Day Raffle Tickets Sent Home	-	
Thursday	6-Apr	Easter Cake Sale		
TERM 2				
Thursday	11-May	Mother's Day Gift Stall	-	Mother's Day Raffle Drawn
Friday	12-May	Mother's Day Morning Tea	11am	
Wednesday	24-May	P&F General Meeting	6pm	All welcome. Speaker TBA
Thursday	1-Jun	2nd Hand Uniform Sale	2.30pm	School Hall
Friday	9-Jun	Mufti Day - Casual Clothes	-	

